

Remarks

Claims 1-17, 19-22, 24-32, and 34-78 were pending in this application. Claims 1-16, 19-21, 37-55 and 76-78 have been canceled herein. Claims 17, 22, 25, 29, 56 and 58 have been amended herein. Claims 17, 22, 24-32, 34-36, 56 and 62-75 will be pending upon entry of this response. No additional fee is due at this time.


Applicants acknowledge that an in-person interview took place on August 1, 2007 with the undersigned attorney, the Examiner, and the Examiner's supervisor in attendance. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and her supervisor for scheduling the interview, during which the nature and scope of the present invention was discussed at length, primarily with reference to claim 17. Applicants agree with the Examiner's Interview Summary and incorporate its substance herein. A brief follow-up teleconference between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney took place on August 7, which consisted only of follow-up discussion of the same topics addressed in the in-person interview.

Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the discussions referred to above. Applicants' attorney understands that the Examiner may consider the claims as amended to be allowable over the art presently of record, although the Examiner will need to review the amended claims to verify this and to determine if a further search is necessary. Applicants look forward to the Examiner's reconsideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Telephone: (919) 286-8000
Facsimile: (919) 286-8199


Steven B. Phillips
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,911
Moore & Van Allen PLLC
P.O. Box 13706
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709